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LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, may I convey the following according to operative articles 2, 3 and 4 of Security Council resolution 678 (1990).

An official spokesman in Saudi Arabia has announced today that the operation for the liberation of the State of Kuwait commenced, with God's help and success, at dawn, at 2.50 a.m., the 17th of January 1991 Riyadh time (time difference, already 17th in Riyadh).

The official spokesman further added that in implementation of the Arab and Islamic resolutions as well as of the resolutions of the Security Council which stipulates the necessity for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi invading forces from Kuwait territories and the restoration of legitimacy in the country; and whereas all efforts, initiatives and appeals that had been exerted and addressed to the ruler of Iraq up to the last minute of the deadline that has been set for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, which is the 15th of January 1991, and what has followed from that up to this morning at dawn; and given that President Saddam Hussein had adamantly rejected all efforts, appeals and endeavours and has also rejected international legality, while it was possible for him to avoid the occurrence of these battles to prevent bloodshed; thus the military operations for the liberation of the State of Kuwait has commenced. Victory is bestowed by God.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative